



Milwaukee County

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

For Immediate Release April 7, 2010
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

KEEP WASTEWATER TREATMENT DISCHARGE OUT OF LOCAL WATERWAYS

Alternative for Waukesha water threatens neighborhood waterways owned by County taxpayers

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., is sponsoring a resolution relating to the possible plan to supply water to several Waukesha County communities through the City of Waukesha Water Utility. Under one of the alternatives included in the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's final Regional Water Study, pipelines would carry water discharged from wastewater treatment plants to streams tributary to Lake Michigan, possibly including Underwood Creek and the Root River watercourses throughout Milwaukee County.

"It's essential that any water used be returned to Lake Michigan, but I am absolutely opposed to using creeks as the return flow mechanism," Supervisor Weishan said. "The burden should be on Waukesha to develop the infrastructure necessary to properly return water back to Lake Michigan."

Sending this return water to creeks in Milwaukee County could exacerbate the high water flows that many of these tributaries already experience during heavy rains and could damage the stream riverbed ecology and structures located near the tributaries. Supervisor Weishan's resolution opposes the alternatives that include discharge of wastewater treatment plant effluent into streams tributary to Lake Michigan.

"As the debate over providing water to Waukesha continues, it's important to remember that Milwaukee County owns the land that could be negatively affected by water flows of questionable quality," Supervisor Weishan said. "Do we really want water discharged from treatment plants flowing through residential neighborhoods along Underwood Creek and the Root River?"

The resolution will be considered at the next meeting of the County Board's Parks, Energy & Environment Committee meeting scheduled for April 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 201-B of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

###